CLA. Well, you must now speak sir John Falstaff fair;
Which swims against your stream of quality.

CH. JUST. Sweet princes, what I did, I did in honour,
Led by the impartial conduct[1] of my soul;
And never shall you see, that I will beg
A ragged and forestalled remission[2].

[1] —IMPARTIAL conduct—] Thus the quartos. The folio reads—imperial. STEEVENS.

Impartial is confirmed by a subsequent speech addressed by the King to the Chief Justice:

" ——————That you use the same
" With the like bold, just, and *impartial* spirit,
" As you have done 'gainst me." MALONE.

[2] A RAGGED and FORESTALL'D remission.] *Ragged* has no sense here. We should read :'

" A *rated* and forestall'd remission."

i. e. remission that must be sought for, and bought with supplication. WARBURTON.

Different minds have different perplexities. I am more puzzled *with forestalled* than with *ragged*: for *ragged*, in our author's licentious diction, may easily signify beggarly, mean, base, ignominious: *but forestalled* I know not how to apply to *remission* in any sense primitive or figurative. I should be glad of another word, but cannot find it. Perhaps, *by forestalled* remission, he may mean a pardon begged by a voluntary confession of offence, and anticipation of the charge. JOHNSON.

The same expression occurs in two different passages in Massinger. In The Duke of Milan, Sforza says to the Emperor :

* Nor come I as a slave—
* Falling before thy feet, kneeling and howling

[6] For *& forestalled remission.*"

And, in The Bondman, Pisander says

- And sell
* Ourselves to most advantage, than to trust
[c] To *& forestalled remission.*"

In all these passages a *forestall'd remission* seems to mean, a remission that it is predetermined shall not be granted, or will be rendered nugatory. Shakspeare uses, in more places than one, the *word forestall* in the sense of to *prevent*. Horatio says to Hamlet, ** If your mind dislike any thing, obey it. I *will forestall* their repair hither." In this very play, the Prince says to the King:

" But for my tears, &c.
** I *had forestalled* this dear and deep rebuke."